

**REMARKS**

In light of the above-amendatory matter and remarks to follow, reconsideration and allowance of this application are respectfully solicited.

Claim 22 was objected to. This claim has been amended to address and satisfy the Examiner's objection.

Claim 7 was believed to be ambiguous. Claim 7 has been amended to obviate any ambiguity therein.

The Examiner has again rejected the claims, primarily in view of the combination of Batson and Sojoodi; although Sojoodi was relied upon by itself to reject claims 1, 14, 22 and 35. The secondary references to Natori and to Shirai were added to this combination of Batson and Sojoodi to reject several of the dependent claims. It is apparent, however, that if the Examiner is persuaded that the claims of this application patentably distinguish over the Batson/Sojoodi combination, all claims would be allowable over the prior art of record.

Independent claims 1, 7, 14, 22, 28 and 35, all of the independent claims in this application, have been amended to make explicit that which was implied all along, as argued in the previous amendment filed March 25, 2005. Accordingly, it is believed, for the reason discussed below, that claims 1-42 are in condition for allowance.

In the Office Action under reply, and particularly in the Examiner's "Response to Arguments," the Examiner pointed out, at page 10,

"that independent claims 1, 7, 22 and 28 only require 'defining a set of instructions to be associated with a plurality of processing elements based upon said one or more input parameters' ... and 'a plurality of processing elements defined in accordance with one or more received instructions'... These limitations do not specify that the user write instructions for the processing elements to carry out ..."

It appears, then, the Examiner has acknowledged Applicants' argument that underscores the patentable differences between Applicants' invention and the cited prior art; but the Examiner contends the claims do not particularly point out and distinctly claim these differences.

Although Applicants believe the claims, as previously presented, clearly defined the feature that the Examiner understands to be the difference over the prior art, namely, the feature that the user is able to write instructions for the processing elements, thereby defining and customizing the processing as the user wishes, as opposed to limiting the user to select processing functions only from a pre-established set, the independent claims are amended herein to explicitly define this feature. As the claims now stand, the user defines a set of instructions to be associated with plural processing elements to enable those processing elements to carry out the user-defined and user-input instructions. This is particularly pointed out in the following recitations of the independent claims:

**Claim 1:** "defining a set of instructions input by a user to be associated with a plurality of processing elements, based upon said one or more input parameters, to enable said processing elements to carry out said instructions;"

**Claim 7:** "defining a set of instructions input by a user to be associated with a plurality of processing elements, based upon said one or more commands, to enable said processing elements to carry out said instructions;"

**Claim 14:** "defining a set of instructions input by a user to be associated with a plurality of processing elements to enable said processing elements to carry out said instructions;"

**Claim 22:** "a set of instructions input by a user associated with a plurality of processing elements, said instructions based upon one or more received input parameters, each of said plurality of processing elements performing a discrete processing function, each of said plurality of processing elements having a graphical representative assigned thereto and said processing elements operating to carry out the user-input instructions;"

**Claim 28:** “a plurality of processing elements defined by a user in accordance with one or more received user-generated instructions, each of said plurality of defined processing elements having a graphical representative assigned thereto, said processing elements operating to carry out the user-generated instructions;”  
and

**Claim 35:** “a set of user-generated instructions associated with a plurality of processing elements ...

a plurality of connections defined by a user in accordance with said instructions for connecting a plurality of said plurality of processing elements in a predetermined relationship ... to allow for a desired processing.”

It is respectfully submitted that all of the claims present in this application expressly recite the limitations that the user writes instructions for the processing elements to carry out. The Examiner had rejected the claims in light of Sojoodi, presumably because the Examiner was of the view that the claims did not expressly recite these limitations. It follows, then, that with this amendment to the independent claims, the Examiner will reconsider his rejection. Whereas the Examiner contended that the claims “do not require any user-intervention,” the claims, as amended, now make this explicitly clear.

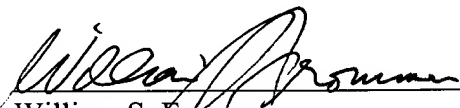
Accordingly, reconsideration and allowance of this application are respectfully solicited.

Statements appearing above in respect to the disclosures in the cited references represent the present opinions of the undersigned attorney and, in the event the Examiner disagrees with any of such opinions, it is respectfully requested that the Examiner specifically indicate those portions of the references providing the basis for a contrary view.

Please charge any additional fees that may be needed, and credit any overpayment, to our  
Deposit Account No. 50 -0320.

Respectfully submitted,  
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